



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Darryl Von Raesfeld

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 20, 2010

Approved

Date

5/21/10

**SUBJECT: 2010 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION**

REASON FOR ADDENDUM

The Fire Department proposes to apply for the 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. In the coordination effort to determine application specifications, including identifying needs, regulatory requirements and regional partners; the Department did not meet standard timelines to place this request on the May 25, 2010 agenda. The grant application is due on May 28, 2010 and requires Council approval prior to submittal.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for funding to replace the Fire Department's Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory and to be the host agency on a regional application for a Live Burn Training Trailer.

OUTCOME

This action will allow the City Manager as required in the grant specifications, to apply for grant funds to fund the complete replacement of the Fire Department's Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory and purchase of a Live Burn Training Trailer.

BACKGROUND

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Grants are awarded to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards. Three types of grants are available: Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S), and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). The primary goal of AFG funding is to provide grants to help firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, training, and other resources.

Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator

Replacement of the Fire Department's existing Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory is estimated to cost \$2,200,000. To fund the replacement of this critical patient care equipment while minimizing impacts on the General Fund, the Department proposes to apply for \$1,760,000 of AFG funding. If awarded the grant, the City would be responsible for matching 20%, or \$440,000, of the total program costs.

The Fire Department has examined its Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory and conducted a needs assessment relating to patient care and Record Management System (RMS). Based upon these actions, the Department has identified the replacement of its Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory, which was purchased in 2001, as being the most critical need relating to upgrading its patient care and (RMS) capabilities and determined that it meets the eligibility requirements of the AFG. According to the manufacturer, the life of a Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator unit is about 7 to 9 years. The Department proposes to replace its current Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator and all accessories. With this purchase, the Department would also increase its current inventory for surge capacity for Multiple Victim Incident and Multiple Casualty Incident (MVI, MCI) events. The total cost of the replacement is estimated to be \$2.2 million, which would fund the purchase of 70 Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators.

Currently, the San José Fire Department has 62 cardiac monitor/defibrillators in its inventory, all of which are approaching the recommended replacement criteria per the manufacture. All 753 sworn personnel, from Fire Chief to Firefighter, are subject to mandatory call back in the event of a major incident or multiple alarm fire. All sworn personnel are trained to operate these units in an emergency incident. Per California State EMSA Code Title 22 mandate, all personnel will be evaluated in the use and knowledge of the Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator twice a year. Department policy requires that a Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator will be used during the care of the patient. Department, County, and State policy that patient information collected during their care of the patient will be incorporated into the Patient Care Report (PCR).

Live Burn Training Trailer

Regional projects require one eligible applicant to act as the "host" for the project. Any eligible applicant, whether a fire department or a nonaffiliated EMS organization, may act as a host applicant and apply for large-scale or regional projects on behalf of itself and any number of organizations in neighboring jurisdictions. The host will be responsible for fulfilling all grant requirements such as reporting to NFIRS, control of and accounting for the funds, and distribution and control of the property. Additionally, the host is responsible for assuring that the cost share is met.

The Department proposes to act as the host agency in a regional grant application in coordination with the County of Santa Clara Fire Department for the purchase of a Live Burn Training Trailer at an estimated cost of \$553,500. If the regional application is awarded, there would be a cost-share match requirement of 20% (\$110,700). The San José Fire Department has a labor-management agreement with the California Professional Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC). As a participating member of CFFJAC, the Department receives funding towards firefighter training through the San Jose Fire Department Sub-JAC Committee. The Department submitted the request to the Sub-JAC Committee to fund the 20% match and has received approval for the funding.

Neither the San José Fire Department nor the County of Santa Clara Fire Department has a live fire training program and must rent a mobile live fire trailer. The only live fire training that the agencies are able to provide is live fire training for newly hired recruits during the initial 16 week recruit firefighter academies. In order to provide this training, the agencies rent a live fire trailer for 8 hours which costs \$4,850 each time. Purchasing a live fire trailer will allow for the agencies to increase the frequency of live fire training from a one-time recruit training to periodic trainings as part of their respective continuous improvement programs.

The purchase of a live fire training trailer and subsequent implementation of a region-wide live fire training program will improve interoperability between agencies within the region. It will also allow the agencies within the region to train in alignment with NFPA standards and comply with federally mandated OSHA regulations. The end result will be a safer, more effective firefighting force and in turn a safer community.

ANALYSIS

The guidelines for the 2010 AFG were released on April 23, 2010 and the application period grant opened on April 26, 2010. The AFG application is due on May 28, 2010. With public safety high on the list of priorities, the City should take every opportunity to find alternative funding for critical emergency response equipment needs.

Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator

The Fire Department has examined its equipment inventory and conducted a needs assessment relating to firefighter safety; based upon these actions, the Department has identified the replacement of its Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory as being the most critical need relating to providing emergency medical services to the community and has determined that it meets the eligibility requirements of the AFG. The Fire Department has initiated the grant application preparation process and formed a working grant committee to conduct research and analysis and delegated grant writing responsibilities to staff.

Funding of \$2.2 million would fund the purchase of 70 Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators to replace equipment on frontline apparatus with permanently assigned staff and increase current inventory to provide for equipment on all ready-relief apparatus (per AFG guidelines). Award of monies to replace obsolete equipment would bring the Department into compliance with the 2007 edition of Glasgow Physicians Guide and reduce costs associated with the repair and replacement of equipment. Additionally, the Department will increase its level of patient care and bring itself in line with the highest level of Electro-Cardiogram (ECG) interpretation.

Becoming compliant with current American Heart Association (AHA), Glasgow Physician Standards, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department will have the appropriate tools to effectively and safely treat emergencies the City of San José faces on a daily basis; i.e. hazardous material incidents, confined space rescues, new material construction fires, high-rise events, mass casualty incidents, and the added hazards associated with emergency events at high-tech industrial sites.

Live Burn Training Trailer

Structural firefighting amounts to less than 2% of San José Fire Department responses, yet represents the highest risk to both civilian and firefighter safety and property conservation. Structural firefighting is a high risk low frequency activity that requires continuous realistic training to produce safe and effective outcomes. The implementation of a live fire training program will provide the means to obtain this vital training.

The San José Fire Department participates in the Santa Clara County Mutual Aid Program. The City shares borders with Santa Clara City Fire Department, Milpitas Fire Department, Santa Clara County Fire Department, and Cal Fire. With the purchase of the Live Burn Training Trailer, the Department will be able to conduct live fire training with these adjacent agencies. This will improve interoperability with these agencies when responding to emergencies along our shared borders.

Purchasing a Mobile Live Burn Training Trailer will provide a safe and effective means to mitigate this risks associated with structural firefighting. It will allow the San José Fire Department, as well as regional agencies, to participate in realistic structural firefighting training as part of continuing education training, adhere to nationally applicable performance standards,

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and comply with federally mandated OSHA regulations. This will occur in a safe, realistic and educational environment, ideal for perfecting structural firefighting fundamentals, and will ultimately increase civilian and firefighter safety and protect property.

The Mobile Live Burn Training Trailer will be housed at the San José Fire Department's Bureau of Field Operation's Campus. It will be available for training for both live fire and technical rescue training.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The award of AFG funds is anticipated to occur in spring 2011. If awarded the grant, the appropriation of the AFG funds would be brought forward for City Council consideration at that time.

The Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory replacement and purchase of additional equipment is estimated to cost \$2,200,000, of which the AFG funding would equate to 80% (\$1,760,000). If awarded, the City would be responsible for providing a 20% (\$440,000) match. To ensure matching funding is available, staff will bring forward recommendations in the 2010-2011 budget process to rebudget 2009-2010 Fire Department savings of \$440,000 and allocate the funding in a City-Wide appropriation.

The Mobile Live Fire Training Trailer will cost an estimated \$553,500. The regional application includes cost-share match requirement of 20% (\$110,700). With the matching funds being provided by the CFFJAC, the City would not be required to appropriate funding.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- ☐ **Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- ☐ **Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- ☐ **Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This action meets Criterion 1, and has been posted on the City's website for the May 25, 2010 Council Agenda.

COORDINATION

This action has been coordinated with the County of Santa Clara Fire Department, the City Attorney's Office, and the City Manager's Budget Office.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

If the Departmental application is awarded federal funding towards the replacement of the Fire Department's Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator inventory and purchase of additional equipment to improve medical care (80% of the total purchase price), the City of San José must commit to fund 20% of the total replacement costs (\$440,000). If awarded the grant, it is anticipated the purchase of the equipment would occur in 2011-2012. To allocate the matching funds, a recommendation to rebudget 2009-2010 Fire Department savings of \$440,000 will be brought forward in the 2010-2011 budget process. This investment is consistent with the commitment to find alternative funding sources and to reduce total City costs.

If the Regional application is awarded federal funding for the purchase of the Mobile Live Fire Training Trailer (80% of the total purchase price), the 20% match of the total cost (\$110,700) has been approved by the San Jose Fire Department Sub-JAC Committee. The CFFJAC would pay the matching funds directly to the vendor and no City funding would be required.

Ongoing maintenance and operating costs for both purchases would be addressed with funding currently included in the Department's budget for EMS and Training. No additional funds would be needed for ongoing maintenance.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP10-068(a).

/s/
DARRY VON RAESFELD
Fire Chief

For questions please contact Joseph Loguidice, Administrative Officer, at 277-8785.